

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 /033 W
-----301557Z 033392 /54
P 301535Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1753

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 3653

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, CZ
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - INTERIM EXTENSION OF AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT(ATA)

REFS A. STATE 312168 B. PRAGUE 3612

1. DCM CALLED ON DR. ZEMLA, MFA LEGAL DEPARTMENT, DEC. 30
AND CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF PARAS 1 AND 2 OF REF A. DCM EXPLAINED
THAT USG HAS AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH GOC REQUEST FOR INFORMAL,
ORAL AGREEMENT TO EXTEND ATA FOR "REASONABLE PERIOD," I.E.,
ROUGHLY TEN OR TWENTY DAYS, BUT NOTED THAT LONGER INTERIM PERIOD
FOR WORKING OUT DETAILS OF ATA RENEWAL WOULD REQUIRE SOMETHING IN
WRITING.

2. ZEMLA REGISTERED SATISFACTION AT THIS AND SAID GOC MINISTRY
OF TRANSPORT WOULD APPROVE ON DEC. 31 AN INTERIM PERMIT FOR PANAM
TO CONTINUE OPERATING AFTER ATA EXPIRES THAT SAME DAY. HE SAID
THAT CSA APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED SIMILAR INTERIM PERMIT FROM
CAB AND ASKED FOR OUR COMMENTS ON THIS. DCM REPLIED THAT WE UNDERSTA
ND
THAT CAB WILL ISSUE INTERIM PERMIT SHORTLY (PARA 1, REF A)
AND THAT WE WILL QUERY WASHINGTON ABOUT TIMING.

3. AFTER DCM CONFIRMED ZEMLA'S IMPRESSION THAT US SIDE IS STILL
CONSIDERING NEW SALES QUOTA AND CSA'S REQUEST TO ISSUE ITS
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OWN TRANSPORTATION DOCUMENTS IN US, ZEMLA ASKED WHETHER US
CONTEMPLATES A SECOND ROUND OF TALKS, EITHER BETWEEN AIRLINES
AGAIN OR BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS. DCM REPLIED THAT PANAM APPARENTLY
ORIGINALLY THOUGHT TWO AIRLINE-TO-AIRLINE SESSIONS WOULD BE
REQUIRED BUT THAT WE DO NOT KNOW PANAM'S CURRENT THINKING ON THIS.
DCM ADDED THAT WE HAVE NO WORD ON POSSIBLE GOVT-TO-GOVT SESSION

BUT WILL QUERY WASHINGTON ABOUT BOTH POSSIBILITIES.

4. ZEMLA THEN EMPHASIZED HIS VIEW THAT ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF PRESENT ATA WOULD BE TOO SHORT SINCE WE WOULD SOON HAVE TO START WORK ALL OVER AGAIN ON RENEWAL/RENEGOTIATION EXERCISE. HE OBSERVED THAT GOC HAD ORIGINALLY WANTED THREE-YEAR AND USG ONE-YEAR EXTENSION BUT THAT BOTH AIRLINES ARE APPARENTLY READY TO ACCEPT A TWO-YEAR EXTENSION. ZEMLA SAID THAT TWO YEARS IS REASONABLE AND WOULD ALLOW TIME TO WORK OUT COMPLETELY NEW AGREEMENT TO REPLACE OUT-DATED ATA. DCM SAID THAT IF PANAM WANTS TWO-YEAR EXTENSION USG WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO GO ALONG.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST: (A) WHEN WILL CAB ISSUE CSA INTERIM OPERATING PERMIT? (B) DOES DEPARTMENT EXPECT THAT A SECOND NEGOTIATING SESSION, EITHER AIRLINE-TO-AIRLINE OR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT, WILL BE REQUIRED?; AND (C) WHAT ARE CURRENT USG VIEWS ON TWO-YEAR VICE ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF ATA?
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY SIGNATURE, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRAGUE03653
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760476-0376
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976123/aaaaacoh.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 312168
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <08 NOV 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - INTERIM EXTENSION OF AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT(ATA)
TAGS: EAIR, CZ, US, PANAM, CSA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006